

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NRC-05 IO-10 EB-07 OES-03 FEA-01 COME-00 MC-02

ERDA-05 /107 W

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R 102114Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6678

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: CANADIAN NUCLEAR REACTOR SALE TO S. KOREA

REF: STATE 134351

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT FROM HANSARD (RECORD OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE) HAS ALREADY BEEN POUCHED DIRECTLY TO OES/SCI/AE - HOYLE AND TO ACDA. REQUESTED COMMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. ALIGNMENT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BOTH PRO AND CON WITH RESPECT TO CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL SALES REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNALTERED.

B. KOREAN SALE DRAWING SOMEWHAT MORE FIRE IN MEDIA AND PERHAPS PARLIAMENT THAN OTHERS HAVE. IT IS TEMPTING TO EXPLAIN THIS IN TERMS OF GENERAL CONCERN OVER KOREAN SITUATION.

C. ONE SENIOR CANADIAN OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, RECENTLY SPECULATED OUT LOUD TO EMBASSY SCICOUNS ON MOST CONFIDENTIAL BASIS ABOUT WHY PRESS AND MEDIA SEEM TO BE SO CONCERNED ABOUT KOREAN SALE AND SO LITTLE AGITATED OVER ARGENTINE DEAL. THIS DICHOTOMY DOES PROVIDE FURTHER GROUND FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECULATION.

D. IN REPLY TO LEADER OF OPPOSITION, PRIME MINISTER PUT HIS FINGER SQUARELY AND PUBLICLY FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE MORAL DILEMMA POSED BY NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. HE POINTED OUT THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DESPERATELY NEED ENERGY AND HENCE IT WOULD BE WRONG TO WITHHOLD TECHNOLOGY WHICH COULD HELP. CONVERSELY, DISSEMINATION OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY CAN LEAD TO PROLIFERATION WHICH MAY ALSO BE CONSIDERED MORALLY WRONG. ALTHOUGH PM'S RESOLUTION OF THE DILEMMA WAS NOT AS CLEAR AS HIS STATEMENT OF IT, THE CONSENSUS VIEW IN THE PRESS AND AMONG INVOLVED OFFICIALS SEEMS TO BE THAT PM MEANT THAT IN THIS CASE ONE SHOULD MAKE SALES BUT WITH AS STRINGENT SAFEGUARDS AS POSSIBLE.

E. GOC, OPPOSITION AND PUBLIC ARE ALL GROPING WITH PROBLEM OF HOW TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE RELIABILITY OF DIFFERENT CUSTOMERS. HOW THIS WILL BE RESOLVED IS UNCLEAR AT THIS POINT. PORTER

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